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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who of Your great mercy promised to supply all our needs, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness and bring us into the joy of abundant living.

Today, give our Senators the gifts of wisdom and understanding, of knowledge and judgment, so that those held captive will enjoy again the freedom and the peace of Your providential love. Help us to show our gratitude to You with words and actions of affirmation. Tune our minds to the frequency of Your spirit as we dedicate this day to serve You.

Lord, we ask You to bless our Capitol Police who risk their lives for freedom each day.

We pray in Your gracious Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, April 24, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the

Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### ACKNOWLEDGING THE CAPITOL POLICE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate very much the Chaplain's prayer, but I especially want to recognize the last line or two of his prayer today where he indicated that he wanted a special blessing on the Capitol Police. I am happy the Sergeant at Arms was here when that prayer was being given, because the Chaplain is right. Every day the Capitol Police protect us; that is, Senators and staff, but also the millions of visitors who come to this massive complex every year. We see them standing there at guard, watching the doors. We need to do that because a few years ago we had some madman crash through the House side and kill some police officers.

We see that things have gotten more difficult since then. We have people standing with automatic weapons. We have bomb squads. We have dogs that work with us so well. We have people who are on bicycles. But with the appropriations process coming soon,—I hope—we have to make sure we supply the Capitol Police with the tools and materials and equipment they need to continue doing their job.

Is it inconvenient for people coming here, and for us on occasion? The answer is yes. But they are doing that for

us, for the people who come to this complex. I want to acknowledge the good Chaplain. I appreciate his remarks on behalf of the people who protect us here every day.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks the Senate will be in morning business until 10:30. Republicans will control the first half, the majority the final half. Following morning business, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Jane Kelly to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit and the nomination of Sylvia Burwell to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

At noon there will be up to three rollcall votes: confirmation of Kelly and Burwell and adoption of the motion to proceed to the Marketplace Fairness Act.

### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 788

Mr. REID. Mr. President, S. 788 is due for its second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN.) The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 788) to suspend the fiscal year 2013 sequester and establish limits on war-related spending.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would object to any further proceedings with respect to this bill at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

### MARKETPLACE FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I had a number of meetings yesterday with Democratic and Republican proponents of the Marketplace Fairness Act. This

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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